REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to overcome the outstanding objections, without narrowing the scope of the claims. Withdrawal of the objections is requested.

In paragraph 6, the examiner objects to Fig. 3B, and requests that it be identified as prior art. A corrected drawing is being filed with this amendment, to avoid abandonment of the application, but applicants traverse this requirement because Fig. 3B shows a waveform diagram used in the present invention. Vp is a conventional drive voltage waveform, but the Vp is shown in Fig. 3B in connection with an embodiment of the present invention. For this reason, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under § 102 on the basis of the AAPA. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 to better define the present invention over the AAPA, and respectfully traverse because the AAPA does not disclose (or suggest) a voltage applied between a pixel electrode and a counter electrode.

The examiner asserts that the conventional waveform AAPA of Fig. 3B shows that the positive voltage +Vp is applied and then the negative voltage -Vp that is lower than +Vp is applied and that therefore, claims 1 and 4 are disclosed in AAPA. Perhaps the examiner is confusing "voltage" with "potential". The negative voltage -Vp has lower potential than the positive voltage +Vp, but the negative voltage -Vp may not be lower than the positive voltage +Vp because "voltage" means a potential difference.

In order to clarify the meaning of the claimed voltage, the claims have been amended to recite that "a voltage is applied between the pixel electrode and the counter

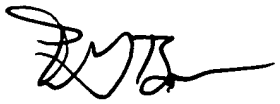
electrode". In Fig. 3B, the same voltage Vp is applied between the pixel electrode and the counter electrode. Therefore, amended claims 1 and 4 are not anticipated by the conventional waveform of Fig. 3B. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under § 102 on the basis of Konuma et al. Applicants traverse this rejection for the reasons given with respect to the previous rejection. Moreover, Konuma discloses that a ferroelectric liquid crystal layer is interposed between the electrodes, and protrusions 27 are formed on the orientation means 24 and 25. See Fig. 3. This protrusion 27 is not the domain restriction structure for restricting the alignment of liquid crystal found in the present invention. The protrusion 27 is formed to have the alignment of the liquid crystal randomly changed while the voltage is increased so that the grayscale of brightness can be obtained. In the structure of Konuma, the alignment of the liquid crystal is not substantially vertical when no voltage is applied. Withdrawal of this rejection is also requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 

Patrick G. Burns
Registration No. 29,367

March 10, 2005

300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312.360.0080
Facsimile: 312.360.9315

FIG. 3A

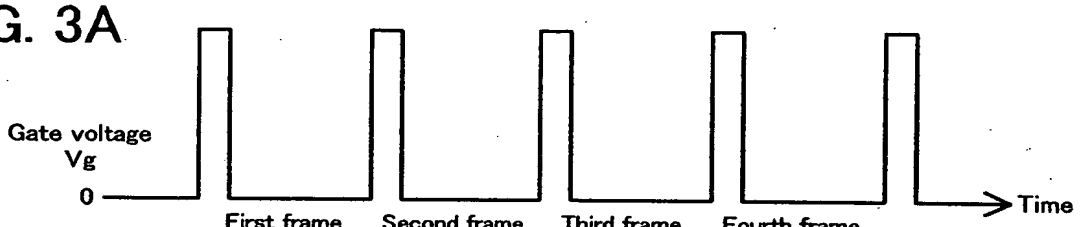


FIG. 3B
(PRIOR ART)

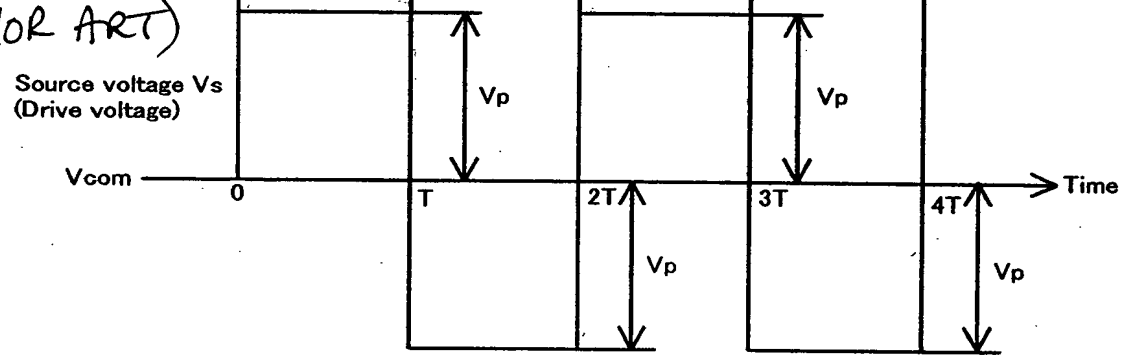


FIG. 3C